



June 10, 2020

**VIA EMAIL**

Iowa Secretary of State  
1007 East Grand Avenue  
Room 105, State Capitol  
Des Moines, IA 50319  
[sos@sos.iowa.gov](mailto:sos@sos.iowa.gov)

**Re: Public Records Request**

Dear Custodian of Records:

Pursuant to the Iowa Public Records Law, Iowa Code, Ch. 22, American Oversight makes the following request for records.

**Requested Records**

American Oversight requests that the Secretary of State produce the following promptly, or as soon as feasible:

All email communications (including emails, complete email chains, calendar invitations, and attachments thereto) sent by (a) any of the Secretary of State officials listed in Column A to (b) any of the external parties listed in Column B below:

Column A: Office of the Secretary of State Officials	Column B: External Parties
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Paul Pate, Secretary of State, or anyone communicating on his behalf (such as an assistant or scheduler)</li> <li>ii. Heidi Burhans, Director of Elections</li> <li>iii. Anyone serving in a role next in authority to the Director of Elections (such as a Deputy Elections Director or Assistant Elections Director)</li> </ul>	<p>Republican National Committee (RNC):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Ronna McDaniel</li> <li>ii. Richard Walters (including, but not limited to, at the email addresses <a href="mailto:rwalters@rnchq.com">rwalters@rnchq.com</a> and <a href="mailto:rwalters@gop.com">rwalters@gop.com</a>)</li> <li>iii. Michael Roman (including, but not limited to, at the email address <a href="mailto:mroman@rnchq.com">mroman@rnchq.com</a> and <a href="mailto:mroman@gop.com">mroman@gop.com</a>)</li> <li>iv. Anyone communicating from an email address ending in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. @gop.com</li> <li>b. @rnchq.com</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Donald J. Trump for President:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>v. Anyone communicating from an email address ending in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. @donaldtrump.com</li> <li>b. @victory.donaldtrump.com</li> <li>c. @trump.com</li> <li>d. @trumporg.com</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



	<p>e. @donaldjtrump.com</p> <p>Trump Make American Great Again Committee &amp; Trump Victory:</p> <p>vi. Anyone communicating from an email address ending in @redcurve.com</p> <p>America First Action:</p> <p>vii. Anyone communicating from an email address ending in:</p> <p>a. @a1pac.org</p> <p>b. @prochcpas.com</p> <p>c. @redprintstrategy.com</p> <p>America First Policies:</p> <p>viii. Anyone communicating from an email address ending in @americafirstpolicies.org</p> <p>Parscale Strategies:</p> <p>ix. Brad Parscale (including, but not limited to, at the email address brad@parscale.com)</p> <p>x. Anyone communicating from an email address ending in:</p> <p>a. @parscaledigital.com</p> <p>b. @gilesparscale.com</p> <p>c. @parscale.com</p> <p>Republican Party of Iowa:</p> <p>xi. Anyone communicating on behalf of the Republican Party of Iowa (including, but not limited to, any communications with any email address ending in @iowagop.org)</p>
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In an effort to accommodate your office and reduce the number of potentially responsive records to be processed and produced, American Oversight has limited its request to emails sent by the named officials. To be clear, however, American Oversight still requests that complete email chains be produced, displaying both sent and received messages. This means that both a custodian's response to an email and the initial received message are responsive to this request and should be produced.

Please provide all responsive records from January 1, 2020, to the date the search is conducted.

Please notify American Oversight of any anticipated fees or costs in excess of \$100 prior to incurring such costs or fee.

## **Guidance Regarding the Search & Processing of Requested Records**

In connection with its request for records, American Oversight provides the following guidance regarding the scope of the records sought and the search and processing of records:

- Please search all locations and systems likely to have responsive records, regardless of format, medium, or physical characteristics.
- Our request for records includes any attachments to those records or other materials enclosed with those records when they were previously transmitted. To the extent that an email is responsive to our request, our request includes all prior messages sent or received in that email chain, as well as any attachments to the email.
- Please search all relevant records or systems containing records regarding agency business. Do not exclude records regarding agency business contained in files, email accounts, or devices in the personal custody of your officials, such as personal email accounts or text messages. Records of official business conducted using unofficial systems or stored outside of official files are subject to the Public Records Act.<sup>1</sup>
- In the event some portions of the requested records are properly exempt from disclosure, please disclose any reasonably segregable non-exempt portions of the requested records. If a request is denied in whole, please state specifically why it is not reasonable to segregate portions of the record for release.
- Please take appropriate steps to ensure that records responsive to this request are not deleted by the agency before the completion of processing for this request. If records potentially responsive to this request are likely to be located on systems where they are subject to potential deletion, including on a scheduled basis, please take steps to prevent that deletion, including, as appropriate, by instituting a litigation hold on those records.

If you have any questions regarding how to construe this request for records or believe that further discussions regarding search and processing would facilitate a more efficient production of records of interest to American Oversight, please do not hesitate to contact American Oversight to discuss this request. American Oversight welcomes an opportunity to discuss its request with you before you undertake your search or incur search or duplication costs. By working together at the outset, American Oversight and your agency can decrease the likelihood of costly and time-consuming litigation in the future.

Where possible, please provide responsive material in an electronic format by email. Alternatively, please provide responsive material in native format or in PDF format on a USB drive. Please send any responsive material being sent by mail to American Oversight, 1030 15th Street NW, Suite B255, Washington, DC 20005. If it will accelerate release of responsive records to American Oversight, please also provide responsive material on a rolling basis.

<sup>1</sup> See *Linder v. Eckard*, 152 N.W.2d 833, 835 (Iowa 1967) (“It is the nature and purpose of the document, not the place where it is kept, which determines its status” as a public record).

## **Conclusion**

American Oversight is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit with the mission to promote transparency in government, to educate the public about government activities, and to ensure the accountability of government officials. American Oversight uses the information gathered, and its analysis of it, to educate the public through reports, press releases, or other media. American Oversight also makes materials it gathers available on its public website and promotes their availability on social media platforms, such as Facebook and Twitter.<sup>2</sup>

We share a common mission to promote transparency in government. American Oversight looks forward to working with your agency on this request. If you do not understand any part of this request, please contact Emma Lewis at [records@americanoversight.org](mailto:records@americanoversight.org) or 202.919.6303.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Austin R. Evers". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the left.

Austin R. Evers  
Executive Director  
American Oversight

<sup>2</sup> American Oversight currently has approximately 15,500 page likes on Facebook and 102,200 followers on Twitter. American Oversight, FACEBOOK, <https://www.facebook.com/weareoversight/> (last visited June 2, 2020); American Oversight (@weareoversight), TWITTER, <https://twitter.com/weareoversight> (last visited June 2, 2020).